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The Clarkes

PRIMROSES
and
PANSIES



CLARKE'S GIANT SWISS
PANSIES
Page 4

*Growers
Price List*

The reason discriminating customers come to us for seeds is the fact that neither pansies nor primulas lend themselves well to the machine age. It takes our critical eye, knowing personal touch, and plenty of hand labor to produce the most colorful and satisfactory strains. The many factors involving human judgment and skill make all the difference, and make Clarkes pansies and primroses the outstanding strains. This superiority is plainly visible starting with high test germination and continuing with vigorous plant growth and a profusion of large, early flowers.



ROSE POLYANTHUS See Pastel Selections, Page 6



CLARKES PANSIES

SWISS VARIETIES

BLUMLISALP

Displays luscious shades from palest pink to bright carmine rose. These colors are most unusual for pansies and this is one reason for its popularity. We have received many enthusiastic comments from gardeners who come back for it again and again because of its beauty. Pkt. (200 seeds) 50c; Growers' Pkt. (500 seeds) \$1.00; 1/16 oz. \$1.50; 1/8 oz. \$2.50; 1/4 oz. \$4.50; 1/2 oz. \$9.00; 1 oz. \$18.00.

CORONATION GOLD

A deep, clear gold, with no markings. Our strain of this pansy is delightfully fragrant and is unusually large for a Swiss type. Its profuse branching habit makes it excellent for cutting. Growers' Pkt. (500 seeds) 50c; 1/16 oz. \$1.00; 1/8 oz. \$1.75; 1/4 oz. \$3.00; 1/2 oz. \$5.50; 1 oz. \$10.00; 2 oz. \$18.00; 3 oz. \$25.00; 4 oz. \$32.00.

FIREBEACON

Coppery red blooms of flaming brilliance. A Swiss type, with the characteristic central blotch, and with a richness of color you've never seen before. Growers' Pkt. (500 seeds) 50c; 1/16 oz. \$1.00; 1/8 oz. \$1.75; 1/4 oz. \$3.00; 1/2 oz. \$5.50; 1 oz. \$10.00; 2 oz. \$18.00; 3 oz. \$25.00; 4 oz. \$32.00.



BLUMLISALP (Light Shade)

MONT BLANC

The finest white Swiss pansy. Not so large as the hybrid Moon Moth, but harmonizes best in size and type with other Swiss varieties. Growers' Pkt. (500 seeds) 50c; 1/16 oz. \$1.00; 1/8 oz. \$1.75; 1/4 oz. \$3.00; 1/2 oz. \$5.50; 1 oz. \$10.00; 2 oz. \$18.00; 3 oz. \$25.00; 4 oz. \$32.00.

ULLSWATER

An ultramarine shade which is really blue. A superb pansy for mass effect or contrast. Growers' Pkt. (500 seeds) 50c; 1/16 oz. \$1.00; 1/8 oz. \$1.75; 1/4 oz. \$3.00; 1/2 oz. \$5.50; 1 oz. \$10.00; 2 oz. \$18.00; 3 oz. \$25.00; 4 oz. \$32.00.



ULLSWATER

The pansy seeds "Blue Knight" which you sent last year made fine plants which sold well. Thank you.

Bristol, Tennessee

We are going to grow only Clarke pansies this year.

Middleton, Wisconsin

The germination was excellent and the performance was outstanding. I carried about 500 plants (pansies) through the winter in cold frames and transferred most of them to beds in early spring. The display was something to talk about.

Wayne, Illinois

Having had such beautiful pansies from seed purchased last year, I want to order again from you.

Alderwood Manor, Washington

HYBRID VARIETIES

BLUE KNIGHT

This new introduction — our own — has a range of beautiful blue shades, with soft periwinkle blue predominating, and is a perfect companion for our Moon Moth and for Pay Dirt, which it equals in size, form and texture. There is no other pansy color like it. Its shade of blue stands out with distinction at a distance, and makes a striking combination with white, yellow, or pink tulips. Pkt. (300 seeds) \$1.50; Growers' Pkt. (600 seeds) \$2.65; 1/16 oz. \$4.50; 1/8 oz. \$7.50; 1/4 oz. \$13.50; 1/2 oz. \$24.00; 1 oz. \$45.00.

MOON MOTH

Supremely beautiful white hybrid, with early, 4 to 5 in., giant, ruffled blooms, penciled dark blue. A truly thrilling flower, alone or combined with any color. Pkt. (300 seeds) \$1.00; Growers' Pkt. (600 seeds) \$1.75; 1/16 oz. \$3.00; 1/8 oz. \$5.00; 1/4 oz. \$9.00; 1/2 oz. \$16.00; 1 oz. \$30.00; 2 oz. \$55.00.

PAY DIRT

Huge, ruffled, 4 to 5 in. hybrid yellow with dark penciling and a marvelously sweet fragrance. We consider these heavy, rich-textured blooms the finest we produce. Pkt. (300 seeds) \$1.00; Growers' Pkt. (600 seeds) \$1.75; 1/16 oz. \$3.00; 1/8 oz. \$5.00; 1/4 oz. \$9.00; 1/2 oz. \$16.00; 1 oz. \$30.00; 2 oz. \$55.00.



BLUE KNIGHT

Arrangement by Mrs. Philip Hart

RUBY VELVET

This new giant pansy, *our introduction*, has the most strikingly brilliant red tone imaginable. It is free flowering and has a sturdy compact habit of growth. Try this in combination with any yellow or orange flower. Pkt. (300 seeds) \$1.00; Growers' Pkt. (600 seeds) \$1.75; 1/16 oz. \$3.00; 1/8 oz. \$5.00; 1/4 oz. \$9.00; 1/2 oz. \$16.00; 1 oz. \$30.00.

We had a lot of compliments on our pansies this year as to color, size of flowers, etc. I sure like your strains. Keep up the good work.

Greenacres, Washington



PAYDIRT

Complete planting and cultural instructions accompany each shipment.

The pansies last year were the best ever—large and the colors were magnificent.
Johnstown, Penn.



FIREBEACON



CLARKE'S PASTEL HYBRIDS

Arrangement by Mrs. Philip Hart

CLARKES' PASTEL HYBRIDS

Incredibly delicate flesh-pink, peach, coral, rose, salmon, orchid, buff and violet. Petals bear shining, iridescent overlays in markings like butterfly wings; many are ruffled, some so densely as to resemble double petunias. Smaller than Jumbo, but larger than Swiss. Growers' Pkt. (over 500 seeds) \$1.25; 1/16 oz. \$2.25; 1/8 oz. \$4.00; 1/4 oz. \$7.00; 1/2 oz. \$12.00; 1 oz. \$22.00; 2 oz. \$38.00; 3 oz. \$52.00; 4 oz. \$63.00; 1 lb. \$240.00.

JUMBO MIXTURE

"Tremendous" is the word for these remarkable pansies. In cool weather and with high fertility you may measure blooms up to a staggering 5 in. across! This unique hybrid strain produces earliest flowers in purple, maroon, yellow, blue, red, lavender, orchid, bronze-gold, and a fascinating array of two-tones and pastels—blotched, penciled, rayed, and pure selfs. Growers' Pkt. (600 seeds) \$1.00; 1/16 oz. \$1.75; 1/8 oz. \$3.00; 1/4 oz. \$5.00; 1/2 oz. \$9.00; 1 oz. \$16.00; 2 oz. \$30.00; 3 oz. 42.00; 4 oz. \$52.00; 1 lb. \$175.00.

Pansies this spring were beautiful. Sold every plant.
Newburgh, New York

Your seed had some colors we have never seen and we were very proud of them. People were lavish in their praises and we could have sold a lot more plants.

Stillwater, Maine

We suggest that the grower of pansy seedlings for the market will do well to educate his customers as to the uses of the various types of pansy. For example, our Hybrid Blend and our Jumbo should be grown and sold to produce winter blooms in warmer localities, such as the South, and for very early spring blooms in cooler sections. The same can be said for our other American types, such as Ruby Velvet, Blue Knight, Moon Moth and Pay Dirt. For late spring blooms in warmer localities, and for summer blooms in cooler parts of the country, we recommend our Giant Swiss, and the separate Swiss colors—the Ullswater Blue, the Firebeacon red, the Coronation Gold, and the Mont Blanc white, or the Blumlisalp pink.

For the connoisseur, who wants something different, the Pastels make marvelous flower arrangements. These beautiful blooms are especially adapted for picking because of their soft colors which blend so readily with each other.

CLARKES' PANSIES



PANSIES FROM SEED

Preparation of the Seed Bed

If the pansy seed is to be sowed in flats, our instruction sheet, "Pansies from Seed," sent with each order, gives the essential steps. Pansy seed may also be sowed outdoors, in beds about five feet wide, of any convenient length, and raised about four inches. These beds are built up from finely tilled soil, and the clods and trash are raked out by hand in the process of levelling. On this foundation spread about one-half inch of well rotted barnyard manure, or compost, which has been sifted through a one-half inch screen, to provide a special store of food for the root development of the seedlings. Then roll the bed and on the levelled surface put about a one inch layer, composed of sifted garden loam, sifted peat moss and sand, in proportions varying with the type and texture of the garden soil. This layer provides the "lean" mixture preferable for germination. Level and roll this topping and give it a good soaking.

Sowing the Seed

After the excess moisture has settled away, broadcast the seed at the rate of about one sixteenth ounce to four lineal feet of bed or about 20 square feet. Before sowing, treat the seed with either red copper oxide or "Semesan" to prevent "damping off," a term used to describe the rotting of the stem of the seedling at ground level. (If "damping off" should develop after the seedlings emerge, spray with yellow copper oxide or "Semesan.") Barely cover the seed, not more than one-eighth of an inch, with a mixture of one-third sifted garden loam and two-thirds sifted peat moss, and sprinkle lightly with a fine spray. Over all place a section of loosely woven burlap, held in place by wire pins at the sides of the beds, or by rock, and sprinkle again until the burlap is wet. As soon as the seed begins to germinate, usually in a week to ten days, remove the burlap permanently, replacing it with a layer of finely sifted peat, to protect the sprouting seed from the direct rays of the sun.

Watering

Watch the watering very carefully, for as much trouble can develop here as at any other step in the growing process. Too little moisture, just when the seed is germinating, can allow it to dry out and die, and too much water can drown it out. Especially after the seedlings are up, avoid watering after 4:00 p.m., except in the rare cases when a strong drying wind is blowing during the afternoon, and can reasonably be expected to continue through the early part of the evening. A good general rule is: keep the seed bed moist but not soggy and carry the beds thru the night on the dry side.

Transplanting

Transplant to the permanent location in the open field when the seedling has developed five or six of its permanent leaves. They can be set out in plant bands at a much earlier stage. The pansy is a heavy feeder with fine roots and thrives in rich mellow soil, with plenty of cultivation, moisture and fertilizer, which should include some phosphate and not too much nitrogen.

QUALITY SEED

The amount of labor involved in the actual growing process is sufficient evidence to prove that the original cost of the seed is but a fraction of the total cost of production. It naturally follows that the grower should buy only the finest available. The seed must give excellent germination and the resulting blooms must be so pleasing as to bring repeat orders. For such outstanding blooms the grower should obtain the top price.

SALES

Probably the final decision as to the sale of the plants, has to be made by each individual grower. If he is on or near a main hiway, he may have his own booth for convenient and profitable retail sale of his plants, dug direct from his own garden and displayed in flats or cartons. Or he may prefer to sell them wholesale in flats filled with freshly dug plants, or with plants grown in bands. In either case he should grow a small, compact, vigorous plant, with one large, outstanding bloom. To accomplish this result, proper timing is essential. We figure about twelve weeks from seed to bloom, but there are too many factors in plant production to make a rule which will be accurate under all conditions. Germination of the seed in a heated greenhouse, allows for the sowing of pansy seed at any time. Transplanting in bands in a cold frame, covered with greenhouse sash, simplifies winter care and makes it possible to supply the early market with clean, desirable plants.

CLARKES' GIANT SWISS

For fifteen years we have carefully re-selected our strain of this famous pansy, for size, earliness, vigor and the widest possible color range, which includes pink, rose, cream, yellow, orange, henna, red, flame, carmine, purple, fuchsia blue and a few white, with many edged blossoms. The normal central blotch appears in most blooms, which are round, open faced and up to 3 1/2 inches across. Plants are sturdy, compact and selected for continuous hot weather blooming ability. Growers' Pkt. (500 seeds) 75c; 1/16 oz. 1.25; 1/8 oz. \$2.00; 1/4 oz. \$3.50; 1/2 oz. \$6.50; 1 oz. \$12.00; 2 oz. \$22.00; 3 oz. \$32.00; 4 oz. \$40.00; 1 lb. \$150.00.

The pansy is especially valuable as ground cover for bulbs, for iris, in the rose garden, for Dahlia and Chrysanthemum borders in the fall. Picture the proper color of pansy blooms enhancing the beauty of blooming bulbs in window box or planter. Consider how bare is the ground in a rose planting, especially in early spring, and the same rose bed planted to the appropriate color of pansies. For the pansy accommodates itself to almost any season, providing from seven to nine months of bloom, so that it can be used at almost any time.

CLARKES' HYBRID BLEND

This is a calculated blend of the Jumbo type with additional hybrids grown especially for the mixture. Their mingled colors afford the widest possible range of shades and markings in the large flowered hybrid types. Your planting of these pansies will be full of enchanting surprises as the blooms unfold. Growers' Pkt. (600 seeds) \$1.00; 1/16 oz. \$1.75; 1/8 oz. \$3.00; 1/4 oz. \$5.00; 1/2 oz. \$9.00; 1 oz. \$16.00; 2 oz. \$30.00; 3 oz. \$42.00; 4 oz. \$52.00; 1 lb. \$175.00.

CLARKE'S HYBRID BLEND

Arrangement by Mrs. Philip Hart



CLARKES' "EVERYTHING" BLEND

Does everything look good to you? It is hard to choose from such a fascinating list of pansies, isn't it? For you who just can't say "No" to a single variety, we have made a carefully considered blend of every kind of pansy we grow. Everything is here, including the new hybrid varieties as well as the pure Swiss kinds—the widest range of type and color possible. Growers' Pkt. (500 seeds) 75c; 1/16 oz. \$1.50; 1/8 oz. \$2.50; 1/4 oz. \$4.00; 1/2 oz. \$7.50; 1 oz. \$14.00; 2 oz. \$26.00; 3 oz. \$36.00; 4 oz. \$44.00; 1 lb. \$165.00.

A SUGGESTION FOR GROWERS

Be sure to allow ample time for germination of either Clarkes' "Everything" Blend or Hybrid Blend, for each of these mixtures is composed of several strains, which will vary a little in time required for germination. The stronger colors, such as yellow and purple, develop their seedlings faster than the more delicate pastel tones. Therefore, transplant both small and large seedlings.

CLARKES PRIMROSES

ORDER EARLY

In cool climates primrose seed can be sown successfully at any time of the year, but elsewhere the best germination and finest plants result when it is planted either in late winter or early spring before the season of frosts is over.



BLUE POLYANTHUS

POLYANTHUS RED SHADES

Great clusters of flame red to darkest velvety red florets. Their brilliance draws quick and heartfelt admiration. We have made marked progress toward the elimination of the large yellow eye formerly so characteristic of this color. Growers' Pkt. (400 seeds) \$1.50.

POLYANTHUS WHITE

We consider this the finest white. Its large, heavy blooms are superb. Growers' Pkt. (400 seeds) \$1.50.

POLYANTHUS YELLOW GOLD

A sunny collection of the largest, choicest yellows, and the deepest golds. This series produces flowers and plants of the same high standards of texture and quality as the Colossal Mixed. Growers' Pkt. (400 seeds) \$1.50.

POLYANTHUS COLOSSAL MIXED

Americans like their flowers large and colorful. We have therefore developed our strain of this famous primrose accordingly and have stressed impressive size and diversity of colors, as well as earliness of bloom. The massive flower umbels are carried on 10 to 12 inch stems, well above the lush green foliage. Individual florets measure from 1½ to 2 inches across. The color sequence is wide and varied, with many unusual shades. These include white, yellow, red, pink, lavender, peach, salmon, rose, blue, gold, henna, tile shades, burgundy, fuchsia, and violet.

While these are hardy outdoor primulas, they make superb potted plants for patio or garden room. Use them in window boxes, in planters, or in the lath house. The clusters of flowers make wonderful corsages, attractive flower arrangements, and delightful small bouquets or nosegays. Growers' Pkt. (400 seeds) \$1.00; 1/16 oz. \$3.50; 1/8 oz. \$6.50; 1/4 oz. \$12.00; 1/2 oz. \$23.00; 1 oz. 45.00.

POLYANTHUS BLUE SHADES

We have yet to grow enough of these! Rigorous selection has developed a lovely range from forget-me-not through medium and sapphire to darkest blue. Do not use lime on the soil for this color. Provide partial shade to keep color true. Growers' Pkt. (400 seeds) \$2.50; 1/32 oz. \$4.50; 1/16 oz. \$8.00.

POLYANTHUS YELLOW, COPPER, RUST SHADES

A fine sequence of brilliant colors that belong together. You will especially like the orange tones. These shades are sunshine resistant, and desirable for warmer climates. Growers' Pkt. (400 seeds) \$1.50.

POLYANTHUS PASTEL SELECTIONS

By selections we mean field selections of superbly beautiful pastel colors. Here you will find pink, lavender, peach, apricot, rose, lilac, and many soft two-tone flowers of infinite variations, with occasionally a white, yellow or rose plant. Growers' Pkt. (400 seeds) \$2.50; 1/32 oz. \$4.50; 1/16 oz. \$8.00.

POLYANTHUS ORIENTAL SHADES

Including varying tones of persimmon, tangerine, flamingo and lacquer. Growers' Pkt. (400 seeds) \$2.50.

Please send me grower's packet of Pastel Primrose seed. I got some last year and the blooms this year are beautiful.

Amity, Oregon

ORDER BLANK

THE CLARKES

BOX 440

CLACKAMAS, OREGON

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THIS FLAP IS GUMMED, READY TO SEAL

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For any variety sold out, may we substitute another variety of equal value? Yes ☐ No ☐

PLEASE READ BEFORE ORDERING

FREE DELIVERY—We prepay shipping charges on all orders taken from this catalog for delivery in the United States. All orders will be shipped parcel post, "SPECIAL HANDLING".

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USE
LETTER
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HERE

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ADDRESS _____

THE CLARKES

BOX 440

CLACKAMAS, OREGON



FOLD ON THIS LINE

GUARANTY — All our seed is guaranteed true to description. However, since we can exert no control over growing conditions, we cannot be held responsible for the crop. All our plants are guaranteed true to name. If you are not completely satisfied with your plant order upon arrival, please notify us within ten days, as we will not accept any responsibility later. Liability under this guarantee is limited to the price of the seed or plants purchased.

TERMS OF PAYMENT — Remittance must accompany all orders either by check, draft or money order. Currency is acceptable but should be registered for your own protection. No C. O. D. orders.

FOLD ON THIS LINE

TIME OF SHIPMENT—Our pansy and primrose seed is available whenever you need it, as it is carefully stored and is regularly tested for germination.

We make no plant shipments during the heat of Summer, between June 1st and August 31st.

On your order, please show the best planting date for your locality. We will try to ship accordingly.

MINIMUM PLANT ORDER—\$3.75.



RED TONE POLYANTHUS from Oriental Shades

ACAULIS

ACAULIS GIANT FLOWERED MIXED

When in full bloom, these luxuriant plants are a veritable mass of brilliance. Through rigid selection we have attained gratifying improvements over the older strains both in the size of the flower and in shades of color. Each tight rose-like bud is on its own separate stem. Blue, white, cream, yellow, pink, rose, lavender, purple and red colors appear in this fine mixture. These bright little flowers bound tightly together make one of the most attractive nosegays you can have from your garden. Mixed colors. Growers' Pkt. (400 seeds) \$1.50.

ACAULIS BLUE

It is a very bright medium blue, with particularly fine form and texture. The low growing plants are exceedingly prolific. Growers' Pkt. (400 seeds) \$2.50.

AURICULA

An exceedingly hardy primula, second only to the Polyanthus in popularity. Choose a location where the plants will receive some shade, provide good drainage, and if your soil is on the acid side, add lime. Auricula is at home in your rock garden, or on a north slope, for it comes from the mountain heights where rock and snow are its chosen habitat.

The plants bloom from April until June, and again in the fall. The thick, fleshy stems and large clusters of flowers spring from neat rosettes of thick gray-green leaves.

AURICULA LARGE FLOWERED MIXED

Colors in this mixture include yellow, light brown, blue, henna, plum, purple, rose, pastel tones, and some brassy-green shades. Very long-lasting either in the garden or as a cut flower. Growers' Pkt. (400 seeds) \$1.00.

Last year I ordered your seed of the Blue Acaulis. I followed your directions and had wonderful germination from them.

Bethel, Conn.

ASIATIC PRIMROSES

From the many Asiatics we have tested in our own trials, we have chosen only those which fulfilled two conditions: They had to be surpassingly beautiful, and they had to be easy to grow.

CANDELABRA

This group is characterized by successive whorls of blooms appearing on tall stems. Their general appearance is shown by the line drawing designated "Candelabra Primrose." The following six candelabras are listed in order of bloom, beginning with Japonica in April and ending with Bulleyana in July.

JAPONICA

Especially useful where a sequence of shades is desired. Color ranges from white through pale pink, pink, and rose-pink to cerise. 1/32 oz. \$1.00.

PULVERULENTA, Bartley Strain

Lovely soft pink to watermelon pink florets, some with rose red eye, growing on powdery white stems. Attractive foliage. Very popular. Growers' Pkt. \$1.50.

HELODOXA

Beautiful evergreen foliage with pure yellow blooms. Growers' Pkt. \$1.00.

ASTHORE HYBRIDS

Similar to Bulleyana Hybrids, but with taller stems, and a series of shades of pink, rose, lilac, buff and apricot. Growers' Pkt. \$1.00.



JAPONICA

BULLEYANA HYBRIDS

Tight clusters of terra cotta buds are followed by as many as seven successive whorls of yellow, buff, apricot or burnt orange flowers, with continuing bloom as the flower stalk lengthens. Growers' Pkt. \$1.50.



AURICULA

"But none of them beat Clarke's."
Santa Cruz, Cal.



Candelabra



SIEBOLDI

SIEBOLDI

The lovely, soft, crumply foliage, and the fine fringed flowers on 10 to 15 inch stems make beautiful flower arrangements. The plants flourish in cool, rich, light soil—light enough to permit them to spread by their creeping habit of growth. We've spent considerable effort in establishing an ideal combination of white, shell-pink, orchid, deep rose, and bluish lavender shades. Mixed colors only. Growers' Pkt. \$1.00.

FLORINDAE

A moisture loving giant from Tibet, carrying enormous trusses of fragrant yellow blossoms on 3-foot stalks. Heart-shaped foliage. This is the largest and showiest primula, with gorgeous umbels of 30 to 40 florets. Put this one where you want the mid-summer exclamation point to be. Growers' Pkt. \$1.00.



Florindae

I want to inform you that I am well pleased with your seeds. They are up nice.

Lauderdale, Penn.

PRIMULA INTRODUCTORY OFFER

By increasing the number of varieties you grow you can frequently increase the number of plants you sell to a customer. Here's a group of 6 kinds for you to try at a reduced price.

- Acaulis
- Denticulata
- Polyanthus Mixed
- Auricula Mixed
- Japonica Mixed
- Pulverulenta, Bartley

6 Growers' Pkts.—One of each, value \$6.00 **\$5.00**

*I still like your seeds best.
Saratoga, California*



HARDY CYCLAMEN

Beautiful, marbled, heart shaped foliage for that shaded spot that needs filling. Perfect little cyclamen blooms appear both spring and fall, growing about 4 inches high. Colors vary from white to pink and rose. After blooming, the flower stems curl downward to nestle among the leaves in a most attractive fashion. Perfectly hardy. Growers' Pkt. \$1.00; 1/16 oz. \$1.50.



CHRISTMAS ROSE

(Helleborus Niger Altifolius)

They are very hardy and develop into huge clumps which flower profusely in midwinter. Have several large white blossoms on each flower stem. The blooms add that finishing touch to the Yuletide decorations. A rare Xmas gift. Growers' Pkt. \$1.00.

TERMS OF SALE

All prices shown in this list are net. Please send full payment for your order if you do not have a credit rating. In giving your address please supply your zone number.

GUARANTY

All seed is guaranteed true to description. However, since we can exert no control over growing conditions, we cannot be responsible for the crop. Liability under this guarantee is limited to the price of the seed purchased.

DENTICULATA

An old favorite, originally brought from the high Himalayas of northern India. Beautiful lavender, heliotrope-blue and white florets, close set, on stout stems. The flowers develop ahead of the gray-green, serrated foliage. Available in mixed colors only. Growers' Pkt. \$1.00.



DENTICULATA

Suggestions for Primula Growers

February, March and April are the popular months for sowing primroses, because it aids germination to expose the flats or pots to alternate freezing and thawing, for a week or more, before removing them to a temperature of from 60° to 70° for germination. Spring planted seed usually germinates in about 3 weeks. Freshly harvested seed, sowed in July, August or September usually germinates in from a week to ten days, except Asiatics, which do not germinate readily in warm weather.

The Colossal Mixed strain of Polyanthus Primulas offers a great advantage to growers. Blooms are produced from ten days to two weeks earlier than other strains, and this earliness combined with the unusually large florets means a lot in marketing blooming plants.

ARTIFICIAL WINTER

We recommend that primula seed be given a cold treatment before planting in order to assure prompt germination. Here's a simple and effective method:

Put a few drops of water in the packet containing the seed and shake gently until the seeds are coated with moisture; then freeze in the ice compartment of a household refrigerator for one week; remove and thaw for 24 hours; replace in the ice compartment for 24 hours; remove, thaw and sow.

Many compliments are expressed at the sturdy plants, variety of colors and texture of blooms.

Haverhill, Mass.

THE CLARKES • Clackamas, Oregon